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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,061	07/25/2003	Palani Raj Ramaswami Wallajapet	13,638.2	2215

23556 7590 12/06/2004

KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.  
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NEENAH, WI 54956

EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, GINGER T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3761

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/627,061

Applicant(s)

RAMASWAMI WALLAJAPET ET AL.

Examiner

Ginger T Chapman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 65-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 65-93 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

**DETAILED ACTION**

*Election/Restrictions*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 80/75/65 drawn to a disposable absorbent product with acidic functional groups and polymeric base materials, classified in class 604, subclass 367.
- II. Claims 80/75/69 drawn to a disposable absorbent product with acidic functional groups and non-polymeric base materials, classified in class 604, subclass 358.
- III. Claim 93, drawn to a disposable absorbent product with basic functional groups and non-polymeric acidic materials, classified in class 604, subclass 358.
- IV. Claims 66-68 and 76-79, drawn to an absorbent structure having acidic functional groups and polymeric basic materials, classified in class 428, subclass 221+.
- V. Claims 70-74 and 76-79, drawn to an absorbent structure having acidic functional groups and non-polymeric basic materials, classified in class 428, subclass 98+.
- VI. Claims 81-84, drawn to an absorbent structure with basic functional groups and polymeric acidic materials, classified in class 428, subclass 221+.
- VII. Claims 86-92, drawn to an absorbent structure with basic functional groups and non-polymeric acidic materials, classified in class 428, subclass 98+.

Inventions Groups I-III and Groups IV-VII are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations

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(MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the disposable absorbent product could be produced utilizing a different absorbent pad such as, for example, a cellulose structure. The subcombination has separate utility such as, for example, for use in cleaning products.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Groups I-III is not required for Groups IV-VII, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

If Groups I or IV is elected, the linking claim is 65 and 75/65. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim, claim 75. Upon the allowance of the linking claim, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicants are advised that if any such claim depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim is presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

If Groups II or V is elected, the linking claim is 69 and 75/69. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim, claim 75. Upon the allowance of the linking claim, the restriction requirement as to the linked

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inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicants are advised that if any such claim depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim is presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

If Groups III or VII is elected, the linking claim is 85. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim, claim 85. Upon the allowance of the linking claim, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicants are advised that if any such claim depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim is presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ginger T Chapman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0471. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Schwartz can be reached on (703) 308-1412. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ginger Chapman  
Examiner, Art Unit 3761



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Larry I. Schwartz  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700